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## **2001 Michigan State Fair junior livestock auction tops previous fund-raising records**

The 2001 Michigan State Fair Auction of Junior Livestock Champions was again a huge success, even surpassing last year's records, according to Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Dan Wyant.

Wyant reported that the top steer, lamb and hog sold for a combined total of \$94,000, exceeding last year's total by \$4,000. In fact, total 2001 auction sales grossed \$196,150.

"The Michigan State Fair livestock auction is a showcase for some of the state's hardest working young people," Wyant said. "Through the tremendous generosity of our sponsors and buyers, the youth exhibitors get recognized for their efforts and receive financial assistance for their education. The overwhelming support for the annual auction shows the commitment of our buyers and sponsors to the future of Michigan's agriculture industry."

The 2001 auction was kicked off after the annual Governor's Luncheon on the fairgrounds. Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus and Wyant served as floor "spotters" during the auction.

Purchasers and sale prices of the top animals included:

Grand Champion market steer, exhibited by Christine Guens of Bath, purchased by the Kroger Company for \$44,000.



Grand Champion market lamb, exhibited by Adam Reif of Quincy, purchased by Spartan Stores, Inc., for \$25,000.



Grand Champion market hog, exhibited by Troy Walters of Charlotte, purchased by Meijer, Inc., for \$25,000.



Reserve Grand Champion market lamb, exhibited by Megan Ross of Onsted, purchased by Wolverine Packing Co. for \$5,000.



Reserve Grand Champion market steer, exhibited by Jesse Becraft of Edwardsburg, purchased by Murco Foods, Inc. for \$8,000.



Reserve Grand Champion market hog, exhibited by Elisa Bringham of Concord, purchased by the Kowalski Sausage Co. for \$7,000.



Also auctioned were the State Fair champion wines, butter, milk and cheese. The Best of Category Red Wine sold for \$3,600 to Magna Entertainment, Inc., while the Best of Category Sparkling and White Wines were sold to Al Long Ford for \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. Farm Credit Services purchased the Grand Champion Butter for \$2,100, American Dairy Association of Michigan purchased the Grand Champion Milk for \$2,000 and the Grand Champion Cheese sold for \$1,000 to Corn Belt Beef, Veal, and Lamb.

MDA employees, participating in their fifth auction, purchase a "spotlight" market hog exhibited by Ashley Gordeneer of Vermontville for \$1,800. Processing proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

According to Wyant, prior successes of the Fair's livestock auction have dramatically increased youth participation. For example, more market steers, lambs and hogs were shown in 2001 than ever before, and more than 190 youth competed in skill-a-thon events including livestock quizzes, showmanship and judging.

These successes have also led to the creation of the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF) last year. In 2001, the scholarship fund granted six \$1,000 scholarships.

Recipients are: Jacob AcMoody of Tekonsha, Torey Birchmeier of New Lothrop, Erin Brackney of Charlotte, Stacy Scramlin of Holly, Susan Vanderkolk of Dorr and Ryan Verhelle of Fenton.



The MYLSF also granted \$22,000 in educational awards to 117 youth livestock exhibitors in the skill-a-thon competition. Overall, the livestock auction raised more than \$78,000 for the scholarship fund through the implementation of a sales cap, and the sale of the best of category wines, champion cheese, milk and butter. An unexpected highlight occurred when Posthumus donated a urn of Michigan dried cherries to MYLSF which sold for \$4,400 to Mid American Gunite.

MDA oversees Michigan's state and county fairs, including the Michigan State Fair. MDA is the official state agency charged with serving, promoting and protecting the food, agriculture and economic interests of the people of the State of Michigan. Its programs serve all sectors of agriculture, which is Michigan's second-largest industry.

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(This news release can also be viewed at [www.mda.state.mi.us](http://www.mda.state.mi.us).)